

**Quarterly Report**  
**African Burial Ground Project**  
**Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement**

**March 31, 2006**

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2006.

**Introduction**

The activities for this reporting period include the declaration of the site as a National Monument by President Bush, the transition of the OPEI office to a new location, the acceptance of the final Archaeology Report from Howard University, the completion/signature of the contract between Howard University and GSA for the printing of the three technical reports and the preparation of the integrated and general-audience reports, and the consolidation of some of the osteological and dental samples at Howard University. A brief list of meetings, telephone conferences, etc., held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

**Activities of the Reporting Period**

On February 28, 2006, President George W. Bush declared the African Burial Ground Site a National Monument. As a result of this declaration, the African Burial Ground Site will become a National Park Service Unit. The management of the site will be transitioned from GSA to NPS.

**Education/Outreach (OPEI)**

The OPEI staff made the transition from its temporary office on the 30<sup>th</sup> floor of 290 Broadway to its new quarters in the northeast end of the lobby of the building. Staff worked with GSA and building management to prepare the space to receive visitors for its official opening on February 28. Work is still in progress to get telephone and Internet services fully operational. The Schomburg Center developed a construction fence exhibit and a small exhibit for OPEI providing historical perspective on the period during which the African Burial Ground evolved and was in use, as well as a glimpse of activities since its rediscovery in 1991. OPEI staff report a steady increase in traffic to the lobby center during March, with visitors coming from the city, other states and abroad. Visitors include staff from various agencies in the building who are discovering the center. Among other outreach efforts, visitors have been drawn in by the exhibit on the construction fence, which includes a panel inviting people to come in to visit OPEI and signage in the lobby. Interest for some was stimulated by the media coverage of the designation ceremony.

The Schomburg Center and OPEI staff worked with the NPS and GSA staffs to organize the ceremony on February 28 in the lobby of 290 Broadway at which then Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced President Bush's designation of the African Burial Ground Memorial Site as a National Monument. Over 200 guests attended the ceremony that was hosted by NPS Deputy Director Donald Murphy and included remarks by: NPS Director Fran Mainella, GSA Acting Director David Bibb, GSA Northeast & Caribbean Regional Director Eileen Long-Chelales, Representative Jerrold Nadler, former Mayor David Dinkins and Schomburg Center

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Director Howard Dodson. Music was provided by the African Burial Ground Singers under the direction of James Stovall and program procession drummers and reception music were organized by Eli Fountain. The reception on the 30<sup>th</sup> floor following the ceremony was co-sponsored by the National Park Foundation African American Experience Fund and the Schomburg Center.

Production of the next edition of the OPEI newsletter, *African Burial Ground News*, is in progress with a target distribution date of April 19. Meanwhile, the staff is working on plans for a volunteer meeting at the end of April and a public open house on Saturday, May 13.

**Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)**

On February 23, 2006, GSA accepted the final Archaeology Report from Howard University. The final Archaeology Report is available from the website ([www.africanburialground.gov](http://www.africanburialground.gov)). Howard University and GSA completed negotiations for the contract for the printing of the three technical reports and the preparation of the integrated and general-audience reports. The contract was signed by Howard University on March 21, 2006.

**Archives Project (Corps)**

During this period, the Customs House Archaeology Record Group was transferred to the USACE, SLD. These materials were inventoried and await processing. The Bioanthropology Record Group is 90% complete, with all paper records repackaged, labeled, and arranged. Processing began on the Howard History Documents Record Group in March 2006.

**Samples (Corps/Howard University)**

Mark Mack from Howard University began consolidating the samples at the Cobb Laboratory for interim curation. By the end of the reporting period, the following samples were located at the Cobb Laboratory: Curation Samples, Dental Calculus Samples, DNA Samples (two different sets, one from Dr. Fatimah Jackson and one from Dr. Rick Kittles), Feasibility Study Samples, Hair Samples, Histology Samples (ribs only), and Histomorphology Samples. Once the remaining samples are at the Cobb Laboratory (dental samples, bone chemistry samples, and six additional histology samples), an intake inventory will be conducted.

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**Appendix A**

**Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team**

**January 1 to March 31, 2006**

January 12, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
January 26, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
February 9, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
February 23, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
March 2, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
March 16, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
March 21, 2006	Meeting between Howard University and Corps, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
March 30, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City

**Office of Public Education and Interpretation**  
**January, February, March 2006**

Date	Institution/ Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	#Walk-in's	Comments	TTL # Served
Jan 3	General Public	2				
Jan 4	Manhattan District Attorney's Office General Public	3	Site Tour	1		4
Jan 5	General Public		Q&A	5		5

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Jan 10	General Public		Q&A	1		1
Jan 11	General Public		Q&A	9		9
Jan 12	General Public		Q&A	1		1
Jan 13	Thos. I Atkins Living Learning Ctr Dept of Labor/MLKing Celebration	55 50	Film/Site Tour Film/Off Site			105
Jan 18	Genesis Program/Xavier HS	44	Film/On Site			44
Jan 20	General Public		Site Tour	1		1
Jan 23	General Public		Site Tour	1		1
Jan 25	St. Francis College General Public	20	Film/Site Tour Q&A	3		23
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>194</b>

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**FEBRUARY 2006**

Date	Institution / Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	#Walk- in's	Comments	TTL # Served
Feb 2	Bronx Latin Middle School	50	Site Tour			50
	Local 2627-Electronic Data Processing District Council 37	150	Film/Off Site			150
Feb 6	College of Staten Island	30	Film/On Site			30
Feb 7	Baruch College (several classes)	70	Film/On Site			70
Feb 8	JHS 56	8	Site Tour			8
Feb 9	Woodlands MS/HS	300	Film/Off Site			360
	East Side House After School & MS203	60	Film/On Site			
Feb 10	Baruch College	21	Film/Site Tour			21
Feb 14	PS 156 General Public	25	Film/On Site	1		26
Feb 15	Harlem Your Way	33	Q&A			33
Feb 18	Winston Perry	54	Site Tour			54
Feb 21	Project Street	6	Site Tour			6
Feb 22	General Public		Site Tour	12		12
Feb 23	Dept of Labor, Black Employment Prog	55	Film/On Site			55
	Dept of Justice-DEA New Jersey	57	Film/On Site			57
Feb 24	Lenox Hill	27	Q&A			27
Feb 28	Secretary of Interior,GSA,Schomburg Invited Guests	200	National Monument Announcement			200
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,159</b>

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**MARCH 2006**

Date/Time	Institution / Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	#Walk- in's	Comments	TTL # Served
Mar 1	General Public		Info Desk/OPEI	27		27
Mar 2	General Public		Info Desk/OPEI	10	Israel	10
Mar 3/ 9:45am	Morris Teaneck HS	120	Film/Off Site	19		139
Mar 6	General Public		Info Desk/OPEI	8		8
Mar 7	General Public			12		12
Mar 8	GSA/Press/R Leon/D Desir/ OPEI staff +	9	Libation for Memorial Ground Breaking	1		10
Mar 9	General Public			10		10
Mar 10	General Public		Info Desk/OPEI	8	Senegal	8
Mar 12	St. Albans Church	60	Film/Art Project			60
Mar 13	General Public		OPEI	17	Angola	17
Mar 14			Info Desk/OPEI	7		
Mar 15	Hudson County Comm College Citizens Advice Bureau	26 60	Film/Site Tour Film/Off Site	5		91
Mar 16	Family Counseling	3	Film/OnSite	6		9
Mar 17	Robert Acevedo	2	Film/On Site	8	Japan	10
Mar 18	NAACP Youth Council	40	Film/Off Site			40
Mar 20			OPEI	38		38
Mar 21	Half Hollows MS	43	Film/On Site	10		53
Mar 22	York College	45	Film/On Site	77	Hostos College (self- guided tr)	122
Mar 23	Black Veterans for Social Justice Stockton College	30 20	Film/Off Site Film/On site	38		88
Mar 24	General Public			14		14
Mar 27	LaGuardia Comm College	15	Film/On site	5		20
Mar 28	General Public			9		9
Mar 29	Project Street	14	Film/Off Site	20		34
Mar 30	Stanford Univ	20	Film/On Site	10		30
Mar 31	Cynthia Ellington/Sr Citizens	100	Film/Off Site	5		105
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>971</b>